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# PROPOSED BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1995 AND 1996

Note by the Secretary-General

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* E/1995/2.

** To be issued separately.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, shall draw up at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

2. At its second regular session of 1988, the Council, in resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 43/432, adopted a series of measures aimed at revitalizing the Council. With regard to its working methods and organization of work, the Council, inter alia, decided that, in formulating its biennial programme of work, the Council should, to the extent possible, consolidate similar or closely related issues under a single agenda item, in order to consider and take action on them in an integrated manner. The Council also decided that, prior to the organizational session, the President, with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, should arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and on the allocation of agenda items and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

3. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/264 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Section III of the annex to that resolution contains a number of measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly adopted further measures in regard to the high-level segment, the coordination segment, the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment and the general segment of the Council's substantive session (General Assembly resolution 48/162). Those segments are discussed below individually under the appropriate heading. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Committees of the Council would be subsumed into the plenary as of 1994.

4. Annex II to General Assembly resolution 48/162 gives guidelines for the division of labour between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to be instituted as of 1994 and, in paragraph 7, sets out a listing of items for the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. That list has been followed in the preparation of the present proposed programme.

5. In decision 1993/231, the Council approved the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 and 1995 in the economic, social and related fields (E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 and Add.1), according to which the Council is to hold its substantive session in Geneva from 26 June to 28 July 1995.

6. The Secretary-General submits herewith for consideration by the Council a proposed basic programme of work for 1995 and 1996 and proposed provisional agenda for 1995.

7. Section I contains the proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of the Council in 1995. Section II contains the annotations to the agenda items, the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative

authority for their preparation. Section III, which will be issued as an addendum to the present document, lists the questions which, in accordance with decisions adopted by the Council and the General Assembly, should be included in the Council's programme of work for 1996.

8. With regard to the report of the Trade and Development Board, the Council may wish to consider the report of the Board on the second part of its forty-first session (Geneva, 27 March-7 April 1995) and transmit directly to the Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its forty-second session (Geneva, 11-22 September 1995).

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/217, the reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Commission on Human Settlements will be considered by the Assembly in 1995. It is therefore expected that the Council will review these reports but not consider draft proposals on them, except specific recommendations contained therein which require action by the Council and proposals that concern matters relating to the coordination aspects of the work of those bodies, and, if it deems appropriate, transmit the reports directly to the Assembly without debate.

10. With regard to the selection of a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation pursuant to Council decision 1982/174, the Council will be informed of the joint recommendations of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions in this regard.

11. With regard to the agenda for development, the Council will recall that the General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to further elaborate an action-oriented, comprehensive agenda for development, which should begin its work as early as possible in 1995, and requested the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1995, to consider ways and means for the Council to give further substantive input to the work of the working group (resolution 49/126).

12. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided to recommend to the Council at its organizational session to include in the provisional agenda of its substantive session of 1995 a sub-item entitled "Public administration and development", under programme activities (resolution 49/136).

13. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/130, in which the Assembly decided that the Commission on Transnational Corporations would become a commission of the Trade and Development Board and be renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations.

# I. PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1995 OF THE COUNCIL

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. [Theme/themes to be selected.]

Coordination segment

3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

   (a)/(b) [Theme/themes to be selected];

   (c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the themes of the 1994 coordination segment of the Council.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;

   (b) United Nations Children's Fund;

   (c) World Food Programme;

   (d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

General segment

5. Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

   (a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance;

   (b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

   (c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

   (d) Human rights questions;

(e) Advancement of women;

(f) Social development questions;

(g) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(h) Narcotic drugs;

(i) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

6. Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

(a) Sustainable development;

(b) Trade and development;

(c) Food and agricultural development;

(d) Science and technology for development;

(e) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(f) International migration and development;

(g) Human settlements;

(h) Environment;

(i) Desertification and drought;

(j) Transport of dangerous goods;

(k) Women in development;

(l) Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS);

(m) International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;

(n) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(o) Statistics;

(p) Energy.

7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

9. Coordination questions:

   (a) Reports of the coordination bodies;

   (b) International cooperation in the field of information systems;

   (c) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health;

   (d) Preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera.

10. Non-governmental organizations.

11. United Nations University.

12. Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

   (b) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for the biennium 1996-1997.

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Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

14. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264 and Council decision 1993/231, the Council will hold its substantive session of 1995 in Geneva from 26 June to 28 July.

### A. High-level segment

Item 2. [Theme/themes to be selected.]

15. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields", the General Assembly set out guidelines for the high-level segment of the Council. It is to be of four days' duration, open to all Member States in accordance with Article 69 of the Charter, with ministerial participation, devoted to the consideration of one or more major economic and/or social policy themes, which are to be determined at the organizational session. Adequate Secretariat preparation is to include, in particular, one comprehensive background document for each theme; debate is to follow an integrated and

interdisciplinary approach; and heads of the relevant organizations, agencies and other organs are to participate actively. Heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system will participate in a one-day policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation, with a view to building areas of understanding. The main features of the deliberations of the high-level segment are to be presented to the Council by its President in the form of a summary, which would be incorporated in its final report.

16. The Council will wish to select a theme or themes for the high-level segment at its organizational session for 1995.

17. The Council will recall that the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, adopted the conclusions of the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, consisting of the assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as set out in the annex to resolution 46/151, in which, inter alia, it is stated that in 1995 the Economic and Social Council would devote part of its high-level segment to the consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda. In resolution 48/214, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Secretariat to raise international awareness of the urgent international and African actions needed to overcome the economic crisis in Africa, and to reinforce the capabilities of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the least developed countries to follow up, monitor and evaluate implementation of the New Agenda and, in the process, provide an effective framework for the Economic and Social Council to consider the implementation of the New Agenda in 1995 as part of its high-level segment.

18. The Council will also recall that, at its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to monitor and evaluate action at the national and international level in implementing the international drug control instruments, with a view to identifying areas of satisfactory progress and weakness, and to recommend to the high-level segment of the Council in 1995 appropriate adjustments of drug control activities whenever required; and invited the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its next session to take the necessary measures to implement the resolution and to report on its findings to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Council (resolution 48/12, paras. 9 and 11). At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly invited the Council, while considering the issue of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances at its high-level segment in 1995, to pay special attention to the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested in paragraph 11 of Assembly resolution 48/12; and invited Member States to inform the Council at its 1995 high-level segment on progress in international cooperation, especially on specific national efforts to engage the United Nations system and the multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem (resolution 49/168).

## B. Coordination segment

Item 3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

(a)/(b) [Theme/themes to be selected.]

19. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, the General Assembly decided that a segment on coordination of the activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields should be held during the substantive session of the Council and organized as follows:

(a) A segment of four to five days devoted to the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system relating to the achievement of the economic and social objectives of the United Nations. Discussion would be organized around one or more themes selected at the organizational session, and designed to focus attention on the activities of the United Nations system in the selected economic and social areas;

(b) Discussion would take into account the report of the Secretary-General as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, together with appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. That report should contain a system-wide assessment of the status of coordination with regard to the themes and include recommendations, as appropriate;

(c) The heads of concerned specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including multilateral financial and trade institutions, would be invited to participate actively, making contributions to the policy dialogue reflecting a global perspective on the agreed theme or themes, as well as their activities in the chosen themes;

(d) Recommendations which resulted from those discussions should be submitted to the General Assembly and forwarded, as appropriate, to the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. In that context, the Secretary-General should arrange to apprise the next session of the Council of steps taken by the United Nations system to give effect to those recommendations (Assembly resolution 45/264, annex, sect. III, para. 5 (d) (ii)).

20. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/162 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular annex I, paragraph 14, concerning the coordination segment.

(c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the themes of the 1994 coordination segment of the Council

21. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council considered the following two themes under the coordination segment: "Science and technology for development" and "International cooperation within the United Nations system against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances". In its agreed conclusions on the first theme (see A/49/3, chap. III, sect. A), the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the agreed conclusions to it at its substantive session of 1995.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to science and technology for development

## C. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

22. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, the General Assembly decided that a segment of two to three days of the Council's session should be devoted to operational activities of the United Nations system, focusing, in particular, on the follow-up of policy recommendations and decisions of the Assembly and coordination of activities on a system-wide basis, taking into account Council resolution 1988/77.

23. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in annex I to its resolution 48/162, decided that the work of the operational activities segment would include a high-level meeting, open to all Member States in accordance with Article 69 of the Charter, including ministerial participation. Specific arrangements would be decided upon by the Council at its organizational session. The outcome of this segment should be reflected, inter alia, in the adoption of decisions and resolutions.

24. At its substantive session of 1994, the Economic and Social Council decided that each operational activities segment would determine a principal theme or themes primarily for consideration at the high-level meeting, which would be guided by paragraph 16 of annex I to Assembly resolution 48/162, and that those themes should be agreed on by the Council at its substantive session for consideration at the subsequent substantive session, without excluding consideration of other themes to be decided on by the Council, at the latest, at its organizational session. The Council decided further to devote up to one day of the segment to an informal exchange of views, on issues to be agreed on at the organizational session, with a limited number of representatives/country directors at the field level of the United Nations development funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies (Council resolution 1994/33).

25. In decision 1994/293, the Council decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1995 would consider as a principal theme the implementation of the programme of action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development, and that other themes, including the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, could also be considered by the high-level meeting.

Item 4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

26. Triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system. In resolution 35/81, the General Assembly decided to undertake a comprehensive policy review of operational activities every three years, on the basis of a coherent, integrated and systematic approach.

27. At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly stressed the need for the Economic and Social Council to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring implementation of the resolution and making recommendations thereon. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the triennial policy review, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the resolution and to make appropriate recommendations (resolution 47/199).

28. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly decided to review the situation of all field offices as part of the next triennial policy review, through the procedures established for that purpose in its resolution 47/199 (resolution 48/209).

29. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council requested the Secretary-General in his 1995 report to make proposals on the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, including field-level coordination of the United Nations system, division of labour at the field level, evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of field-level activities, decentralization and national execution (resolution 1994/33).

30. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/123 entitled "United Nations Development Programme and the Human Development Report", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the resolution was reported to it within the context of the relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on its substantive session of 1995.

(a) United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

(b) United Nations Children's Fund

31. In accordance with annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, paragraphs 21 to 30, in regard to the governing bodies of the United Nations development funds and programmes, the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund have been transformed into Executive Boards. Those Boards are

responsible for providing intergovernmental support to and supervision of the activities of each fund or programme in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with the respective responsibility as set out in the Charter, and for ensuring that they are responsive to the needs and priorities of recipient countries. The Boards are subject to the authority of the Council and submit annual reports to it at its substantive session, which may include recommendations, where appropriate, for the improvement of field-level coordination. Each Executive Board meets in an annual session.

(c) World Food Programme

32. In annex I to its resolution 48/162, paragraph 30, the General Assembly decided that the arrangements regarding the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund should apply to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme, and consultations between the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should be undertaken as soon as possible for that purpose. The Council will be informed at its organizational session for 1995 of the results of those consultations. The Committee submits an annual report to the Council (Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX)).

(d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries 1/

33. The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries is entrusted with the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations system. It reports to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (Assembly resolution 33/134). The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on its ninth session (Headquarters, 30 May-2 June 1995).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its ninth session

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1/ This question will be considered by the General Assembly in 1995.

## D. General segment

Item 5. Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

(a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

34. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare an annual report on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including information on the central emergency revolving fund, to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (resolution 46/182, annex).

35. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly, reaffirming its resolution 46/182, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its next substantive session incorporating the views expressed by Governments and appropriate intergovernmental organizations and relevant entities within the United Nations system, on ways and means of strengthening national and regional stand-by arrangements (resolution 49/139 B).

36. Measures to be taken following the cyclones and floods that have affected Madagascar. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council requested the Secretary-General to further evaluate, with the participation of the organizations of the United Nations system, the damage caused by the cyclones and floods that struck Madagascar between January and March 1994 and the medium-term and long-term impact of those disasters on the national economy and to compile information that could promote concerted international assistance. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (resolution 1994/36).

37. The Council will also hear oral reports on the following questions:

(a) Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council appealed to all Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to mobilize all possible assistance for the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development efforts and invited the Secretary-General to inform the Council, at its substantive session of 1995, of the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 1994/35).

(b) Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all measures necessary for the implementation of the resolution, to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the progress made and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (resolution 49/21 K).

(c) Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to

submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 (resolution 49/174).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including the information requested in General Assembly resolution 49/139 B

Report of the Secretary-General on measures to be taken following the cyclones and floods that have affected Madagascar

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

38. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/91, paragraph 16. In that resolution, the Assembly proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993, and adopted the Programme of Action for the Decade contained in the annex to the resolution. The General Assembly entrusted the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, with the responsibility for coordinating the programmes and evaluating the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade and requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, analysing the information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

39. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/146.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

(c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

40. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its substantive session of 1994, the Economic and Social Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council; it requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the

resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1995 (resolution 1994/37). At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (resolution 49/41).

41. Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

42. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the resolution, containing an assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people and of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them (resolution 1994/29).

43. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/21 N.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

(d) Human rights questions

44. The Council will consider the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee as well as the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its eleventh and twelfth sessions.

45. The Council will also consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-first session (Geneva, 30 January-10 March 1995) and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The attention of the Council is drawn to decision 1994/276.

46. The Council will also review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

47. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution

2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee reports annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. In 1995, the Human Rights Committee is to hold its fifty-third session at Headquarters from 20 March to 7 April, its fifty-fourth session at Geneva from 10 to 28 July and its fifty-fifth session at Geneva from 16 October to 3 November.

48. It will be recalled that, at its organizational session for 1983, the Council invited the Human Rights Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its report could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council (decision 1983/101). At its organizational session for 1985, the Council agreed to the interim arrangement proposed by the Human Rights Committee, namely, that the Committee would transmit to the Council, on a regular basis, the text of the general comments adopted by the Committee in accordance with article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant; and, without prejudice to further consideration of the present arrangements at a future session, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the General Assembly (decision 1985/105).

49. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17). It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under Article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures which they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration.

50. The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on its eleventh session, held at Geneva from 21 November to 9 December 1994, as well as the report on its twelfth session, to be held at Geneva from 1 to 19 May 1995.

51. At its first regular session of 1985, the Economic and Social Council decided to review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Committee at its first regular session of 1990, and subsequently every five years, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution of its membership (resolution 1985/17).

52. Commission on Human Rights. The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to the following decision and resolutions:

(a) Council decision 1994/297, in which the Council, inter alia, considered that holding the regular sessions of the Commission later in the year would facilitate the work of the Commission; and decided that the question of appropriate later dates should be considered further at the fifty-first session of the Commission and that the Commission should submit its recommendations to the Council at its substantive session of 1995;

(b) Assembly resolution 49/180, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission to continue giving priority to the review of the fundamental factors that negatively affect the observance of the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes and to report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Council;

(c) Assembly resolution 49/183 on the right to development, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission to continue to make proposals to it, through the Council, on the future course of action on the question;

(d) Assembly resolution 49/201, in which the Assembly decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Haiti at its fiftieth session, on the basis of information provided by the Commission and the Council;

(e) Assembly resolution 49/202, in which the Assembly decided to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups, such as the Baha'is, during its fiftieth session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council;

(f) Assembly resolution 49/203, in which the Assembly decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Iraq during its fiftieth session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council;

(g) Assembly resolution 49/207, in which the Assembly decided to keep under consideration at its fiftieth session the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council.

53. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; it also decided, inter alia, that the High Commissioner would be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The Assembly requested the High Commissioner to report annually on his/her activities, in accordance with his/her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly (resolution 48/141).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its eleventh and twelfth sessions

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-first session

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report on the review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Documents for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

Reports submitted by the specialized agencies in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Summary records of the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

(e) Advancement of women

54. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fourteenth session (New York, 16 January-3 February 1995), the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the work of its thirty-ninth session (New York, 15 March-4 April 1995) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifteenth session (Santo Domingo, 20-24 February 1995). The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1994/237.

55. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

56. Report of the Commission on the Status of Women. In accordance with Council resolution 1990/15, the following three priority themes are to be considered by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session: under equality, equality in economic decision-making; under development, promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills; and under peace, women in international decision-making.

57. The report of the Commission is expected to include recommendations on the following questions:

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. At its first regular session of 1988, the Council decided that the first quinquennial report on review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies would be considered by the Commission

in 1990, and that subsequent reports would be considered in 1995 and 2000 (resolution 1988/22). At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically to the Council, through the Commission, on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies (resolution 49/161).

Implications of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. In resolution 49/161, the General Assembly requested the Commission to continue to examine the implications of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference for the Commission's central role in matters related to the rights of women within the United Nations system and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1995.

58. Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. At its sixtieth session, in 1976, the Council decided to establish the Institute as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions; it also decided on guidelines for the Institute (resolution 1998 (LX)). The statute of the Board was approved by the Council and endorsed by the General Assembly (Council decision 1984/124 and Assembly resolution 39/249). The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council.

59. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/160 on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in which the Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/111 (A/49/217-E/1994/103); requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, an updated report; requested the Council to re-examine the issue, at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995); and decided to take a final decision on the proposed merger at its fiftieth session, taking into account the recommendations made by the Council and the deliberations of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session and of the Fourth World Conference on Women concerning the institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women.

60. System-wide coordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), to report to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Council, biennially in odd-numbered years beginning in 1991, on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development was incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system (resolution 1989/105).

61. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 and in integrating the Forward-looking Strategies into activities mandated by the General Assembly, to pay particular attention to specific sectoral themes that cut across the three objectives, equality, development and peace, and include, in particular, literacy, education, health, population, the impact of technology on the environment and its effect on women and the full participation of women in decision-making, and to continue to assist Governments in strengthening their national machineries for the advancement of women (resolution 49/161).

62. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the international community, competent United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to promote the realization of programmes and projects aimed at the improvement of the situation of rural women; and requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and competent United Nations organizations, a report on the implementation of the resolution and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (Assembly resolution 48/109).

63. The attention of the Council is drawn to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, which, pursuant to Council decision 1992/271 of 30 July 1992, will be held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. The Council's attention is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/161 in regard to preparations for the Conference.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fourteenth session

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-ninth session

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifteenth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide coordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/109 on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

(f) Social development questions

64. World social situation. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis (resolution 44/56). The Council will have before it the interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation, submitted to the Assembly, through the Commission for Social Development and the Council.

65. Commission for Social Development. The Council will consider the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fourth session (New York, 10-20 April 1995). The provisional agenda and documentation for the session were approved by the Council in its decision 1993/237. The report of the Commission is expected to include the recommendations of the Commission on the following question, of which the Council is also seized:

Draft world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond. At its substantive session of 1993, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution entitled "Tenth anniversary of International Youth Year and draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond", in which the Council called upon the Commission for Social Development to give priority attention at its thirty-fourth session to the refinement of the draft world programme of action and to establish an ad hoc informal open-ended working group on youth for that purpose, with a view to formulating a final draft to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 1995 and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (resolution 1993/24).

66. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/152.

67. International Literacy Year. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the commendable work done in implementing the programme for International Literacy Year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, other specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system; requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, in 1995, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made and problems encountered in the quest to achieve a literate world; and decided to undertake, at its fiftieth session, a mid-decade review of the progress made and problems encountered in the struggle against illiteracy (resolution 46/93).

68. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 47/92, pursuant to which the World Summit for Social Development will be held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995. The report of the World Summit will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fourth session

Report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of UNESCO on the quest to achieve a literate world

Report of the World Summit for Social Development

(g) Crime prevention and criminal justice

69. Capital punishment. At its fifty-fourth session, the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit to it, at five-year intervals starting from 1975, periodic updated and analytical reports on capital punishment (Council resolution 1745 (LIV)). The Council will have before it the fifth quinquennial report on capital punishment. The Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the fifth quinquennial report, to draw on all available data, including current criminological research, and to invite the comments of specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council on this question; and recommended that the quinquennial reports of the Secretary-General on capital punishment, starting with the report to be submitted to the Council in 1995, henceforth also cover the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (Council resolution 1990/51).

70. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its fourth session and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the session were approved by the Council in decision 1994/282.

71. Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/157 on preparations for the Ninth Congress. The Council will have before it the report of the Ninth Congress, which will be held at Cairo from 1 to 10 May 1995.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its fourth session

Report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

(h) Narcotic drugs

72. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-eighth session (Vienna, 14-23 March 1995) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in decision 1994/231.

73. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 1994.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-eighth session

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1994

(i) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

74. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex).

75. At its fifty-first session, in 1971, the Council decided that the report of the High Commissioner should be transmitted to the Assembly without debate, unless the Council decided otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda (resolution 1623 (LI), sect. II).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Item 6. Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

76. The Council will have before it the World Economic and Social Survey, 1995, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 118 (11) and 49/93 and Council resolution 1983/50. The Survey will include an overview of the major economic and social developments of global significance and their policy implications, as well as an assessment of short-term prospects for the world economy. The subjects and emerging issues to be addressed in greater detail, both globally and for major countries and groups of countries, will include the following: output and income, macroeconomic policy-making, the world energy situation, international trade and trade policy, international transfers of financial resources and financial cooperation, and other selected social and economic

issues of a more structural nature. The Survey will include a statistical annex and selected notes on statistical methodology.

77. International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and designated the Council as the coordinating body for the Year (resolution 48/183). At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/49/572) containing a proposed timetable for preparation of the programme of the Year. In that report it was stated that consultations on the Year would take place during the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development and the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Following those consultations, the preliminary draft programme for the Year, called for in Assembly resolution 48/183, will be submitted to the Council. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/110.

Documentation

World Economic and Social Survey, 1995

Report of the Secretary-General containing the preliminary draft programme for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

(a) Sustainable development

78. At its organizational session for 1993, the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191, established the Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission of the Council, in order, inter alia, to ensure the effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (decision 1993/207). The functions of the Commission are set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 of General Assembly resolution 47/191. The Assembly recommended that the Commission, in discharging its functions, submit its consolidated recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through it, to the General Assembly.

79. The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its third session. The provisional agenda and documentation for the third session was approved by the Council in decision 1994/300.

80. The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 49/111.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its third session

(b) Trade and development

81. It is expected that the Council will consider the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its forty-first session (Geneva, 27 March-7 April 1995) and transmit directly to the General Assembly the report

of the Board on the first part of its forty-second session (Geneva, 11-22 September 1995).

82. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/99 on international trade and development.

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its forty-first session

(c) Food and agricultural development

83. It is expected that the Council will review in depth the report of the World Food Council (Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX)) and submit recommendations thereon to the General Assembly for consideration and action. 2/

84. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council took note of the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the activities of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (E/1994/79, annex); requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its substantive session of 1995, the report of the Director-General on the activities of the Ministerial Conference at its third session, held at Praia, Cape Verde, in November 1994; and decided to include in the agenda of its substantive session of 1995 the question of cooperation in fisheries in Africa (Council decision 1994/264).

Documentation

Report of the World Food Council

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on cooperation in fisheries in Africa

(d) Science and technology for development

85. At its organizational session for 1992, the Council established a functional Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235 (decision 1992/218). The Commission will report to the Council on the work of its second session (Geneva, 15-24 May 1995). The provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Commission were approved by the Council in decision 1993/321.

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2/ The report of the World Food Council will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1995.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session

(e) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

86. The Council will have before it the report of the International Conference on Population and Development, the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-eighth session (New York, 21 February-2 March 1995) and the report of the Secretary-General requested in General Assembly resolution 49/128.

87. The International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo from 5 to 11 September 1994. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly, having considered the report of the Conference (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1), requested the Secretary-General to prepare periodic reports for the substantive sessions of the Council on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference; requested the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action, and invited them to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1995; decided that the Assembly, the Council and the Population Commission (to be renamed the Commission on Population and Development) would constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up of the implementation of the Programme of Action and, to that end, decided that the Council, in assisting the Assembly, would promote an integrated approach, provide system-wide coordination and guidance in the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action and make recommendations thereon and that the Commission, which should meet on an annual basis, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

88. The Assembly recommended that the Council review, at its substantive session of 1995, the Commission's terms of reference and mandate; and that, pursuant to the decisions made on the terms of reference and enhanced mandate of the Commission, the Council consider the composition of the Commission at its substantive session of 1995, in order to ensure that the Commission fully fulfils its functions. The Assembly also requested the Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to consider (a) the establishment of a separate executive board of the United Nations Population Fund; (b) recommendations to the Secretary-General concerning secretariat support and coordination arrangements of the United Nations system; and (c) recommendations to the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an appropriate inter-agency coordination, collaboration and harmonization mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

89. The Assembly also requested the Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to review the reporting procedures within the United Nations system regarding population and development issues, including a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the

Programme of Action; and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, to prepare a report on institutional follow-up issues and reporting procedures in the United Nations system to be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1995. The Assembly requested the Council to discuss relevant matters concerning the implementation of population and development programmes, as well as matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and collaboration within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action and to discuss the reports submitted by the different bodies and organs on various matters related to the Programme of Action; and invited the governing body of the United Nations Population Fund to oversee, on a regular basis, the response of the Fund to the needs of countries regarding activities to strengthen national population and development programmes and to report to the Council on that matter. The Assembly also requested the Population Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, to review, within its area of competence, the Programme of Action and its implications and to transmit its views to the Council at its substantive session of 1995. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 49/128).

Documentation

Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1)

Report of the Population Commission

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/128

(f) International migration and development

90. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with all States and relevant international and regional organizations, a report on international migration and development, including aspects related to objectives and modalities for the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development, to be submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1995 for discussion. It also requested the Secretary-General, on the basis of the discussion held in the Council, to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session for a decision, inter alia, on the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development (resolution 49/127).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Human settlements

91. The Council will review the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its fifteenth session (Nairobi, 19-25 April 1995), which will include the report of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. 3/ In reviewing the report of the Commission, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspect of the work of the Commission.

92. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. At its forty-second session, the Assembly requested the Commission to formulate a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000 for submission, through the Council, to the Assembly at its forty-third session (resolution 42/191). At that session, the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/43/8/Add.1), decided to review and clarify the Strategy on a biennial basis and requested the Commission, as the body designated to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy, to report biennially to the Assembly on the progress made in its implementation (resolution 43/181).

93. In its resolution 43/180 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the Assembly periodically informed, through the Council, on progress achieved in improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and the disadvantaged.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its fifteenth session, including the report of the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

(h) Environment

94. The Council will review the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its eighteenth session (Nairobi, 15-26 May 1995). 4/ In doing so, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspect of the work of the Governing Council. The Governing Council of UNEP reports to the General Assembly through the Council (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I, para. 3).

95. Strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare and submit to the Governing

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3/ The report of the Commission on Human Settlements will be considered by the General Assembly in 1995.

4/ The report of the Governing Council of UNEP will be considered by the General Assembly in 1995.

Council of UNEP at its eighteenth session a report on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, containing proposals and recommendations within the context of Agenda 21 and a review of Earthwatch; and invited the Governing Council to consider the above-mentioned report and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council (Assembly resolution 48/192).

96. Protection against products harmful to health and the environment. The question of the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products has been considered by the General Assembly since its thirty-fourth session, in 1979 (resolution 34/173). In resolution 39/229, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through the Council, to inform the Assembly every three years about the implementation of that resolution and of Assembly resolutions 37/137 and 38/149. These resolutions form the mandate for the issuance of regular updates of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments. They also address the need to keep the format of the List under continuing review, in cooperaiton with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, with a view to its improvement, taking into account its complementary nature, the experience obtained and the views expressed by Governments. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in the context of the preparation of his next scheduled report on the question, to make specific suggestions on ways and means of providing technical cooperation, including through appropriate United Nations organizations, to countries, in particular developing countries, to create and strengthen their capacity to utilize the Consolidated List; and to study all the pending issues, such as sustainable alternatives to banned and severely restricted products and unregistered pesticides, with a focus on improving the usefulness of the Consolidated List (Assembly resolution 44/226, sect. II).

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session, including the Programme's activities in environmental monitoring

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment

(i) Desertification and drought 5/

97. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the medium-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region. The Secretary-General reports regularly to the General Assembly, through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, as well as on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, which has been designated the focal point for coordinating United Nations efforts to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in carrying out their recovery and

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5/ This question will be considered by the General Assembly in 1995.

rehabilitation programme (Council resolution 1978/37 and Assembly resolutions 39/168 B and 40/209).

98. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. The Secretary-General apprises the Council annually of the status of this question (Council resolution 1983/46).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolutions on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

(j) Transport of dangerous goods

99. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its eighteenth session (Geneva, 28 November-7 December 1994). The Committee was established in pursuance of Council resolution 645 G (XXIII). The Secretary-General reports biennially to the Council on the work of the Committee (Council resolution 1488 (XLVIII)).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its eighteenth session

(k) Women in development

100. In its resolution 42/178 on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session and, in order to strengthen further the work of the United Nations in integrating women effectively in economic programmes and operational activities, to prepare biennially, as an annex to the report mentioned above, an update of mandates governing the integration of women in economic development adopted by the Assembly, the Council and the Commission on the Status of Women and by world conferences of the United Nations system, a list of the titles of all subprogrammes and programme elements relating to the integration of women in development, as contained in the proposed programme budget and in revisions to the medium-term plan, and a compilation of decisions taken by United Nations intergovernmental bodies other than the Commission, the Council and the Assembly relating to the integration of women in development.

101. The Council will also have before it the relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-ninth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-ninth session

(1) Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

102. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session and biennially thereafter, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress in the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS (Assembly resolution 47/40).

103. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council supported fully World Health Assembly resolution WHA46.37 of 14 May 1993, in which the Director-General of WHO was requested to study, in close collaboration with all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned, the feasibility and practicability of establishing a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV and AIDS and to develop options for such a programme; and requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of WHO to include the outcome of the study in the next biennial report (resolution 1993/51).

104. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council endorsed the establishment of a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, subject to further review by April 1995 and called for the full implementation of the programme by January 1996. The Council invited the six co-sponsors (the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank) to transform the Inter-Agency Working Group into a formally constituted Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations. The Council requested the six co-sponsors, through the Committee, to produce, by January 1995, for the consideration of the Council and other concerned parties, a comprehensive proposal specifying the programme's mission statement and the terms and conditions of co-ownership, and detailing the programme's organizational, programmatic, staffing, administrative and financial elements, including proposed budgetary allocations, and to attach to that proposal an annex containing the proposed legal document that the six co-sponsors would sign to establish the programme formally. The Council also requested its President to organize, in cooperation with the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, informal open-ended consultations to be held as soon as possible for the purpose of deciding on the specific composition of the programme coordinating board that would govern the programme, interacting periodically with the Committee during the transition period to facilitate progress towards programme implementation, and reviewing the detailed programme proposal after it was received from the Committee, with a view to making appropriate recommendations on the proposal not later than April 1995 (resolution 1994/24 and annex).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

(m) International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

105. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1981-1990 as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (Assembly resolution 35/18). At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to review, at its fiftieth session, the progress made during the first half of the 1990s, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report, through the Economic and Social Council, on further progress made in attaining the ultimate goal of providing a safe water supply and sanitation for all, including proposals for the action needed for the remainder of the Decade, with special emphasis on the efforts made at the national level and on international cooperation (Assembly resolution 45/181).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(n) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

106. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990. The Assembly adopted the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in which, inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to report biennially to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the activities of the Decade (resolution 44/236, annex). The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/22, in which the Assembly decided to convene, not later than the year 2000, a second world conference on natural disaster reduction; requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session initial recommendations for a second world conference on natural disaster reduction; and also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the resolution and of the recommendations of the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction carried out by the Council at its substantive session of 1994. The attention of the Council is also drawn to Assembly resolution 49/22 B on early warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(o) Statistics

107. The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-eighth session (Headquarters, 27 February-3 March 1995) and take action on the recommendations contained therein (resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L)). The provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session were approved by the Council in its decision 1994/295.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-eighth session

(p) Energy

108. In accordance with Council decision 1994/309 of 3 November 1994, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development will hold a special session from 6 to 17 February 1995 at United Nations Headquarters.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its special session

Item 7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

109. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein.

110. The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions. At its first regular session of 1979, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of the reports of the regional commissions (decision 1979/1). The reports are transmitted directly to all Member States. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on regional cooperation, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments within each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The report of the Secretary-General will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the Commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council.

111. At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation and to request the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in this regard to the Council at its annual organizational session (decision 1982/174). A section on interregional cooperation dealing with the topic selected will be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

112. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council commended the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the work done in preparing the evaluation report on the studies relating to the project in the period 1982-1993; and requested the Executive Secretaries of the two Commissions to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 (Council resolution 1993/60).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation

Summaries of the surveys of economic and social conditions in the five regions, prepared by the regional commissions

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Item 8. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

113. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council adopted resolution 1994/45, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan". The Council reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regarded any infringement thereof as illegal; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 49/132 on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1994/45 and General Assembly resolution 49/132

Item 9. Coordination questions

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies

114. The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on its thirty-fifth session (Headquarters, May-June 1995) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

115. ACC submits an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the ACC machinery in 1994. The report of ACC will include as an addendum

information on programmes and resources of the United Nations system for the biennium 1994-1995.

116. The Council will have before it the report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC on the twenty-eighth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees, held at Headquarters on 27 October 1994.

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-fifth session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1994

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1995/4)

(b) International cooperation in the field of information systems

117. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council stressed once again the urgent need for representatives of States to be closely consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of the United Nations institutions dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users could be given due priority; requested that the initial phases of the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States be implemented from within existing resources and in full consultation with the representatives of States; and requested the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up action taken on the resolution to the Council at its substantive session of 1995 (resolution 1994/46).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up action taken on Council resolution 1994/46

(c) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

118. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council commended the Secretary-General for acting promptly to establish within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development the focal point requested by the Council in its resolution 1993/79; and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the focal point addressed effectively all the issues raised in Council resolution 1993/79. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continue the process of consultations with international organizations and Member States with a view to the development of national plans of action, to coordinate the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA46.8 and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1995 on progress made by the United Nations system focal point (resolution 1994/47).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

(d) Preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

119. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council, recalling the agreed conclusions on the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1993 (A/48/3/Rev.1, chap. III, sect. B), welcomed with interest and appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera (E/1994/60); decided to retain the topic of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, on the agenda of its substantive session of 1995, for consideration in the general segment; and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this topic that further addressed the agreed conclusions of the Council on the 1993 coordination segment; the report should be prepared with the World Health Organization and other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, taking into account their expertise in the area of health and development (Council resolution 1994/34).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Item 10. Non-governmental organizations

120. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation of the Committee were approved by the Council in its decision 1993/331. The Committee, which meets biennially, reports to the Council in accordance with Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1296 (XLIV).

121. Review of the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council took note with satisfaction of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations on its first session (A/49/215-E/1994/99); requested the Working Group to submit the report on its second session (Headquarters, 21-24 February 1995) to the Council at its substantive session of 1995, and invited the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its regular session in 1995, to transmit its comments on that report to the Council at that session (resolution 1994/28).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations on its second session

Item 11. United Nations University

122. The Council will consider the report of the Council of the United Nations University on its work during 1994 (General Assembly resolutions 3081 (XXVIII) and 39/217). 6/

Documentation

Report of the Council of the United Nations University

Item 12. Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

123. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 covering activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Council will consider the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter, with a view to submitting its own recommendations thereon to the General Assembly (Council resolution 1988/77).

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-fifth session

(b) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for the biennium 1996-1997

124. The Council will be required to approve its calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 1996 and 1997 (Council decision 52 (LVII)).

Documentation

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 1996 and 1997

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

125. In accordance with the procedures set out in the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 31/192, the

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6/ The report will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1995.

Joint Inspection Unit reports annually to the Council on activities under the general responsibility of the Council. In accordance with the practice followed by the Council, reports that relate to agenda items will be considered under those items; reports that do not relate to agenda items will be considered separately.

126. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly invited United Nations organs, when considering reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to bear in mind the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the 1983 annual report of the Unit (resolution 38/229). The recommendation read as follows:

> "Because of the method of discussion of JIU reports in the past, clear decisions on the recommendations contained in JIU reports have not always been taken. This lack of clarity hinders effective follow-up by JIU. Legislative bodies of participating organizations could consider the possibility of adopting formulations along the following lines:
>
> "(a) Approves recommendations _____, and _____;
>
> "(b) Approves recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the comments thereon by the Secretary-General (and/or ACC; and/or the debate in the Committee);
>
> "(c) Reserves its position on recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the debate in the Committee;
>
> "(d) Does not approve recommendations _____, and _____." 7/

127. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of the Joint Inspection Unit that were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein (resolution 42/218). The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/237.

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7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/38/34), para. 12.